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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Twentieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 535TH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Tuesday, 25 March 1980, at 6 p.m.

President: Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia)

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(i) Review of implementation and further action that may be required pursuant to Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), part A

(ii) Detailed features for future operations relating to debt problems of interested developing countries (Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), part B) (agenda item 6)(continued)

Report of the Sessional Committee (agenda items 2 and 7)(continued)

Procedural matters (agenda item 1)(continued):

(d) Provisional agenda for the twenty-first regular session of the Board and organization of the work of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.

(i) REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER ACTION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RESOLUTION 165 (S-IX), PART A

(ii) DETAILED FEATURES FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS OF INTERESTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RESOLUTION 165 (S-IX), PART B) (agenda item 6)(continued)

Mr. CHIU Wen-Hin (Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD), replying to the question asked by the representative of Zaire at the 533rd meeting, said that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had written to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) offering UNCTAD's full co-operation in the implementation of Conference resolution 110(V) and suggesting possible courses of action, including the visit of a joint ECA/UNCTAD fact-finding mission to Zaire to elaborate the terms of reference of the studies referred to in the resolution. In reply, the Executive Secretary of ECA had informed the UNCTAD secretariat that, in compliance with resolution 293(XIII) of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, ECA had sent a preliminary mission to Zaire to identify that country's international transport problems and discuss possible solutions with the Zaire authorities, to whom the mission's report, with specific proposals for detailed follow-up studies, had since been submitted.

The UNCTAD secretariat had been informed that steps had been taken to ensure that the relevant proposals were incorporated in the programme for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa. ECA was in the process of inviting Governments to provide more detailed material on projects already in that programme.

Furthermore, a number of activities on behalf of Zaire had been undertaken by UNCTAD. A UNDP-funded technical assistance project on transit transport in eastern and central Africa, covering problems of access to the sea for eastern Zaire, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. A similar project for land-locked countries of southern Africa, which would also cover access corridors to southern Zaire, was getting under way. A request from the Department of Transport and Communications of Zaire for assistance in the field of container management and relating to facilitation of documentation procedure was under consideration. Zaire had been invited to send participants to UNCTAD's courses and seminars on ports and had been associated with the regional project on port statistics. It would also be associated with a regional project on assistance to the secretariat of the Ministerial Conference of Western and Central African States on Maritime Transport, which was being submitted to UNDP. A technical assistance project for the Zaire Foreign Trade Centre had recently been under renegotiation. The UNCTAD secretariat had assisted in preparations and negotiations in the Paris Club, for the reorganization of part of Zaire's external debt, particularly in the context of that country's development problems. The UNCTAD secretariat was ready to respond to any request from the Government of Zaire for additional technical co-operation to assist in solving that country's problems, within UNCTAD's areas of competence and available resources.

Mr. [illegible] (Zaire) said that his delegation had taken note of the activities undertaken by the UNCTAD secretariat, and welcomed the prompt co-operation his country had received. The land-locked countries had to face special problems in their development and foreign trade, for which urgent solutions were required. Zaire, which intended to seek such solutions through bilateral and multilateral co-operation, hoped that the UNCTAD secretariat would provide technical and logistic support to the countries of central and southern Africa for the speedy construction of the Trans-African Highway. In pursuing its efforts for the further implementation of Conference Resolution 110(V), the UNCTAD secretariat should inform the permanent missions of Zaire and of other central and southern African countries of the progress being made. The time had come to move from preliminary studies to specific measures.

REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (agenda items 3 and 7)(continued)
(TD/B/L.[illegible]; TD/B/(XX)/SC/L. and Corr.1)

Assistance to national liberation movements recognized by regional intergovernmental or similar organizations (TD/B/(XX)/SC/L.)

Mr. [illegible] (Afghanistan), introducing draft resolution TD/B/(XX)SC/L.1/Rev.1 on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, pointed out that the word "still" after the word "countries" in operative paragraph 1 should be deleted. The draft resolution had been the subject of intensive negotiations in the Sessional Committee. Since it had not been possible to reconcile comments on the text, it was now submitted for consideration by the Board. He requested a roll-call vote on the draft resolution.

Mr. [illegible] (Algeria) said that it should have been possible for the draft resolution, which contained nothing new, to be adopted by the Board by consensus. The General Assembly had adopted a number of similar resolutions concerning national liberation movements recognized by regional organizations. To vote on the draft resolution would be a retrograde step.

Mr. [illegible] (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that the continuous attempts being made to involve UNCTAD in sensitive and extraneous political issues were to be deplored. Conference resolution 109(V), to which reference was made in the third preambular paragraph of draft resolution TD/B/(XX)/SC/L.1/Rev.1, had been initiated by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). With regard to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, his delegation strongly opposed any assistance to the PLO, whose avowed objective was to destroy Israel. His delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

Mr. [illegible] (Syria), associating himself with the views expressed by the Algerian representative, said that there should be no need to vote on the draft resolution when peoples were being deprived of their right to self-determination. The draft resolution reflected the reality of Israeli occupation of Palestine and of the colonialist situation in Africa and he failed to understand why there should be any opposition to it.

Mr. [illegible] (Algeria) pointed out that she had made no reference to any specific liberation movement, but had merely referred to liberation movements recognized by regional organizations and by the United Nations system. Delegations wishing to express reservations should refrain from mentioning national liberation movements by name.

Mr. AL QAYLAD (Qatar) said that the PLO was a member of the Asian group of developing countries, of the Group of 77 and of the Arab League. It had also been the subject of new initiatives taken by certain European countries. He hoped that that situation would be reflected in the decision taken on the draft resolution.

A vote was taken by roll-call on draft resolution TD/B(XX)/SC/L.3/Rev.1.

Cuba, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden.

Draft resolution TD/B(XX)/SC/L.3/Rev.1 was adopted by 69 votes to 13, with 14 abstentions.

Mr. ALENCAR (Brazil) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, as it had done in the case of Conference resolution 103(V). The statement it had made concerning the sixth preambular paragraph of the latter resolution applied also to the resolution just adopted by the Board.

Ms. SEDDIKI-BENCHEIKH (Algeria) said that the manner in which a number of delegations had voted represented a retrograde step in relation to decisions recently taken by them in other bodies.

Mr. CALLEJO (Colombia) and Ms. QUIROS GUARDIA (Costa Rica) said that their delegations had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution in view of the fact that the studies requested in Conference resolution 103(V) were proceeding.

Economic co-operation among developing countries (TD/B/(XX)/SC/L.12)

Mr. LOPEZ LOPEZ (El Salvador), introducing draft decision TD/B/(XX)/SC/L.12 which had been submitted by his delegation on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, drew attention to corrections which were to be made in that text. In the first preambular paragraph, the words ", on specific aspects of interregional economic co-operation among developing countries" were to be added at the end, after the words "if they so wish"; and in the first operative paragraph, the words "of regional groups, especially" were to be inserted between the words "governmental experts" and the words "of developing countries ...". Furthermore, it had been decided by the sponsors that the text should be considered a draft resolution and not a draft decision. If the draft resolution could not be adopted by consensus, he requested that a roll-call vote should be taken on it.

Mr. HENZE (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the countries of Group B except Turkey, said that the draft was not acceptable to them for reasons already explained in the Contact Group of the Sessional Committee, which he would repeat in explanation of vote after the vote.

Mr. BELLAH-BELKIM (Algeria) asked why the countries of Group B were refusing to accept provisions previously agreed to in UNCTAD resolution 127 (V) and General Assembly resolution 32/202.

Mr. STEINHAUSER (Administrative Service) informed the Board of the financial implications of the draft resolution. The meetings provided for in the second operative paragraph would cost a total of $140,000.

Replying to a question from Mr. ALENCAR (Brazil), he confirmed that the financial implications he had given were an estimate for the servicing of four weeks of meetings. If the servicing provided for was not used in toto, the cost would be accordingly smaller.

A vote was taken by roll call on draft resolution TD/B/(XX)/SC/L.12 corrected as indicated by the representative of El Salvador.

Zambia, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The draft resolution was rejected by 6 votes to 28, with 8 abstentions.

Mr. SZEGO (Hungary), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the countries members of Group , said that those countries viewed economic co-operation among developing countries as the overall concern of the developing countries and a matter to which UNCTAD could contribute only within its powers of competence. The Group B countries had expressed reservations in dealing with matters in paragraphs 13 and 15 of Conference resolution 127 (V), in the absence of a precise definition of the work to be undertaken under that resolution. They had therefore maintained in the vote on draft resolution E/AC.62/L. . that that text must be voted on paragraph by paragraph. They would have voted against the first and second paragraphs accordingly.

Mr. HOSS (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the countries of Group B which had voted against the resolution, said that their vote must not be construed as a lack of interest in economic co-operation among developing countries as such, to which they attached great importance as an important aspect of UNCTAD activities. They also attached great importance to the principle of sovereign equality and universality. They had voted, in resolution 127 (V), for the convening of three preparatory meetings of governmental experts to undertake concrete work in order to prepare for the special session of the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. At the present session of the Board, however, they had been asked to authorize further meetings of governmental experts, without having had an opportunity to examine the proposals of the developing countries on the priorities for further action to promote co-operation among developing countries. They therefore preferred to withhold their position on the convening and organization of future meetings until they had received the results of the coming meetings. With respect to the final paragraph of the resolution just adopted, it continued to be their understanding that any elaboration of the work programme of UNCTAD in matters of co-operation among developing countries as it is discussed and approved by the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. They regretted that the resolution had been put to the vote, as they felt that a consensus should have been reached on the basis of the principles he had outlined.

Mr. ELLENBY (Israel) said that his delegation had often shown its support for economic co-operation among developing countries, to which it attached great importance as one of the main prerequisites for improving economic and social conditions in all countries. The concepts of economic and technical co-operation among those countries fitted well into Israel's philosophy of development co-operation. As a developing country itself, it had for more than two decades been participating in a variety of activities with developing countries of different continents. It had therefore joined in the consensus on Conference resolution 127 (V) on the understanding that the meetings of experts of developing countries provided for in its paragraphs 13 and 15 would be open to participation by all developing countries members of UNCTAD, on the basis of the principles of sovereign equality and universality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Those principles had been reflected in the deliberations in the negotiating committee on economic co-operation among developing countries at the fifth session of the Conference, and he regretted that the procedures pursued by the secretariat in implementing that resolution had been contrary to the spirit of the consensus finally reached, and in defiance of the basic principles he had mentioned. His country, together with others, believed that UNCTAD meetings on economic co-operation among developing countries, including the meetings envisaged in the resolution just adopted by the Board, should be open to all interested developing countries.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS (agenda item 1) (continued):

(c) PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION (TD/B/L.636)

The PRESIDENT drew the Board's attention to the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-first session contained in document TD/B/L.636, to which three further items should be added, namely item 9 of the agenda for the twentieth session with the deletion of the words "the UNCTAD's necessary contribution to a New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade"; an item entitled "Implementation of Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX) on trade and development problems of developing countries"; and an item entitled "Rationalization of the permanent machinery of UNCTAD".

He took it that the Board wished to adopt the draft provisional agenda with the additions he had indicated and to authorize the President, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to adjust and complete it as necessary in the light of developments.

It was so decided.

Mr. KRZYZANOWSKI (Poland), speaking on behalf of the Group D countries, observed that there was a danger of repetition at the twenty-first session of the discussions which had taken place during the twentieth session. The Board should adhere to the established principle of a more selective approach to the choice of agenda items, as that would facilitate its work and increase its efficiency. Prior to the twenty-first session the President should therefore consult not only the Secretary-General of UNCTAD but also the representatives of the regional groups concerning the agenda for the session. Above all, the agenda should not include items for which the documentation could not be prepared by the secretariat sufficiently in advance to comply with the six-week rule.

The PRESIDENT confirmed that the necessary consultations would take place.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Board wished to request the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to consult with delegations regarding the organization of work of the twenty-first session and to circulate his suggestions thereon.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.30 p.m.

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Twentieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 536th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Wednesday, 26 March 1980, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia)

CONTENTS

Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters (agenda item 8) (continued)

(c) Review of the calendar of meetings

(i) Review of implementation and further action that may be required pursuant to Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), part A

(ii) Detailed features for further operations relating to debt problems of interested developing countries (Trade and Development Board resolution 165 (S-IX), part B) (agenda item 6) (continued)

Specific matters arising from the resolutions, recommendations and other decisions adopted by the Conference at its fifth session requiring attention or action by the Board at its twentieth session (agenda item 2) (continued):

Conference resolution 127 (V) - Economic co-operation among developing countries (continued)

Adoption of the report of the Board to the General Assembly (agenda item 11)

Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

INSTITUTIONAL, ORGANIZATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND RELATED MATTERS (agenda item 9) (continued)

(e) REVIEW OF THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS (TD/B/L.535 and Add.1)

1. Mr. LYDON (Secretariat), introduced a note by the UNCTAD secretariat concerning the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1980 and the tentative schedule for 1981 (TD/B/L.535). In section (J), the Board's attention was drawn to the understanding arrived at during consultations, that the Board would, at its present session, review the question of holding the ninth session of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade in two parts. Annex I to document TD/B/L.535 contained a draft calendar which reflected those suggestions.

2. A statement of the financial implications of a further session of the Working Group on Rules of Origin had been circulated under the symbol TD/B/L.535/Add.1. The Board had already taken note of the financial implications, circulated in document TD/B/774/Add.1, of the holding of a second session of the Ad hoc UNCTAD/UNIDO Group of Experts on Trade and Trade-related Aspects of Industrial Collaboration Arrangements.

3. At its present session, the Board had taken only one decision which affected the draft calendar of meetings. That was the decision it had adopted, on 25 March 1980, on the subject of economic co-operation among developing countries. It was therefore necessary to add to annex I to document TD/B/L.535, in the section entitled "Meetings for which the dates are to be determined", the words "Meetings of governmental experts of regional groups, in particular of developing countries, on economic co-operation among developing countries - as required (up to 3 weeks)". Those four weeks of meetings were not being added to the calendar, but were to be taken from the number of weeks assigned to "other standing parties, study groups, expert groups", which would naturally be revised to reflect the final action taken by the Board on the calendar of meetings. Taking into account the meetings which had been held since the beginning of the year, that calendar represented a total of 107½ weeks of meetings for 1980.

4. Under that calendar, except for the week of 21-25 April and the fortnight of 18-29 August, when a meeting of a small group of experts or a preparatory meeting under the Integrated Programme for Commodities could be scheduled, the facilities available to UNCTAD would not permit the scheduling of additional meetings until 6 October, unless meetings at present in the calendar were displaced.

5. Mr. JUZWIAK (Poland), speaking on behalf of Group B, said that the draft calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1980 was too heavy. It was his impression that all meetings which had been the subject of a decision had been automatically included in the calendar, without taking account of the actual possibilities, in particular, the technical possibility of their being successfully held. He seriously doubted whether the secretariat would be able to prepare the necessary

documentation in time; the convening of a number of the meetings was undesirable, as they could not be effective in their aims; in that connexion, in particular, the [illegible] should have been circulated six weeks before the Board's present session, only 10 had been circulated in time.

6. Group D proposed that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in consultation with representatives of groups or regions, convene [illegible] preferably, either around or preferably not around [illegible] the secretariat would be useful to propose the necessary documentation in time. That could work with time and energy.

7. Group D had already indicated that it did not favour dividing the fifth session of the Conference into [illegible] related to Trade [illegible] part. It would support that position during consultations between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the [illegible] of the regional groups.

8. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of objection, he would take it that the Board, having taken note of the financial implications, approved the draft calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1980 and the tentative schedule for 1981 (TD/B/L.[illegible]), with the changes indicated by the secretariat.

9. It was so decided.

(i) REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS AND FURTHER ACTION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RESOLUTION S-IX), PART A

(ii) REVISED TEXTUAL PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS OF INTERESTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RESOLUTION 165 (S-IX), PART B) (agenda item 9) [illegible]

10. Mr. [illegible] (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, expressed the Group's satisfaction that certain creditor countries had done something positive in implementation of the Board's resolution 165 (S-IX). The reasons which had motivated the international community to adopt that resolution were now even more pronounced than at the time of its adoption.

11. The Board had been informed in a communication (TD/B/79) of the relief measures taken by the Netherlands Government: it had learned of the decision of the Austrian Government to convert some past ODA credits into grants for some developing countries; it had also learned that France was planning to convert some ODA loans into grants, but the beneficiaries of that relief measure had not yet been identified. The Group of 77 appreciated those initiatives, which showed that the international community was increasingly aware of the need for debt relief measures in favour of its poorer developing countries. He hoped that all the developed creditor countries would take similar action in favour of all the poorer developing countries referred to in resolution 165 (S-IX).

SPECIFIC MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE AT ITS FIFTH SESSION REQUIRING ATTENTION OR ACTION BY THE BOARD AT THE EIGHTIETH SESSION (agenda item 3) (continued):

Conference resolution 127 (V) - Economic co-operation among developing countries (continued)

12. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) expressed his delegation's disappointment and concern at the result of the vote taken at the preceding meeting on draft resolution TD/B(XX)/SC/L.12 on economic co-operation among developing countries.

13. It was not the first time that the just and legitimate demands of the Group of 77 had been unfavourably received by the other groups. At the first session of the Conference, the mere mention of a generalized system of preferences had been taboo; it was only at the second session that the developed countries began to recognize the need for such preferences.

14. The preparation of a code of conduct for shipping conferences had at first given rise to the same fierce opposition; it was not until the third session of the Conference that a few developed countries had adopted a positive attitude towards the justifiable aspirations of the developing countries in that field, which had led to the convening of a diplomatic conference and the adoption of a Convention. In May 1979 it had been announced that the ratification procedure was to start in those countries where such ratification was necessary in order to give effect to the code of conduct. He understood that that process had unfortunately not yet been completed. His delegation hoped that it would be completed without further delay.

15. In the case of transfer of technology, too, the task had not been easy. It had required time and efforts to move from the stage of the Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology set up at the third session of the Conference to the establishment of a main committee of UNCTAD. Efforts should be continued to develop a code of conduct on transfer of technology. That would be possible only if the other regional groups showed a positive will.

16. Some members of UNCTAD had shown such a will, for example, in the measures they had taken in order to achieve the ODA targets or to relieve the debts of certain developing countries.

17. While his delegation welcomed those encouraging developments, it deplored the lack of positive will on the part of the other groups with regard to economic co-operation among developing countries, which was quite apparent from the result of the vote on draft resolution TD/B(XX)/SC/L.12.

18. Mrs. RADELINA (Madagascar) said that her delegation fully endorsed the Philippine representative's statement and wished to revert to the result of the vote on the resolution on economic co-operation among developing countries (TD/B(XX)/SC/L.12). The record of voting in the United Nations and in other international agencies showed that it was always the same countries which opposed the just and relevant resolutions submitted by the majority of the

States Members of the United Nations. The resolution to which she had referred was only one example among many others which revealed the conflict between the developed countries and their partners. The climate was generally favourable for the establishment of the new international economic order, but there were also negative reactions by certain groups which were disinclined to forego their privileges and were always ready to defend their interests against the highly legitimate interests of the developing countries. Whether one liked it or not, therefore, a confrontation situation did exist, and, in talking about negotiations, there was a tendency to ignore that fact. However, the developing countries, believing right to be on their side and convinced of the justice of their cause, namely the survival of the international community, were certain that they would prevail in the end.

19. Mr. CHARTEN (Guatemala), speaking on behalf of the Latin-American group, said it was disappointed that the areas of agreement were becoming increasingly smaller, to such a point indeed that the objectives of the negotiations now seem unattainable. He appealed to the various groups, and especially to Group B, the one mainly responsible for that situation, to abandon, at forthcoming meetings, their present attitude, which seemed to be motivated by private interests, and try to reach some agreement and mutually advantageous conclusions, in order to avoid an accentuation of the present differences of opinion.

20. Mr. MUNOZ-LOPEZ (El Salvador), endorsing the statement made by the representative of Guatemala, said that the progress made on the various questions covered by the agenda had not matched the undertakings given at the Conference's fifth session and, moreover, did not respond to the developing countries' legitimate aspirations. He had been struck by the developed countries' negative attitude, particularly on the subject of economic co-operation among developing countries. However, international co-operation and solidarity aimed at meeting the developing countries' aspirations must not be confined to a review of the facts; economic co-operation among developing countries must now enjoy some specific and positive support.

21. Mr. ALULA (Ethiopia) said that the statements just made by the representatives of several developing countries clearly reflected the disappointment keenly felt by the Group of 77 as a whole. The setback to the North-South dialogue was now common knowledge; and, since the third session of the Conference, almost all the Group of 77's efforts to change the existing unfair economic relations between the developed and the developing countries had encountered opposition from the developed countries. Serious questions were no longer taken up in negotiations, and in UNCTAD the participants even had difficulty in agreeing on the date of their next meeting. Only the previous day the developed countries had rejected a proposal by the Group of 77 to set a date for the next meeting on economic co-operation among developing countries.

22. The developing countries had had the same experience during the GATT multilateral trade negotiations; they had been unable to participate in the consideration of questions which were of great interest to them, and everything had been handled between the rich exporting developed countries and the rich importing developed countries. The benefits obtained by the developing countries from those negotiations had been merely accidental and were in no way related to their needs. The legitimate wishes of the majority of these countries, however, could no longer be disregarded in that way; and even if the developed countries persisted in not wishing to negotiate rational economic relations, the developing countries would continue to press forward, relying increasingly on themselves, in accordance with the strategy of collective self-reliance which was now being applied by all and which offered better prospects than did co-operation with the developed countries. The North-South dialogue was in any case a recent phenomenon, the developing countries having long been on their own. The developed countries did not want to renounce a system of relations which benefited some at the expense of others, but the developing countries could no longer put up with relations of that type and, if the flexible transition which they proposed towards a harmonious and mutually profitable international division of labour was not accepted, they would find their own solution.

23. The Group of 77 would like UNCTAD to be more useful to all countries; but, there again, its proposals aimed at rationalizing the machinery itself had come up against the developed countries' resistance, when their objective was simply to improve the organization's work and to facilitate the attainment of its objectives through negotiation and consultation. The developed countries wished to continue indefinitely with exchanges of views, without ever achieving any results; but the developing countries would continue to seek, with or without the developed countries' agreement. It was thus in the interests of all to negotiate and accept the changes which the developing countries justly called for.

24. The Board's current session had produced even fewer results than the preceding ones, and the situation could only worsen if the developed countries - particularly the members of group B - did not alter their attitude. He urgently invited them to give effect to the Group of 77's reasonable proposals relating to all sectors of trade negotiations, resource flows and rationalization of the permanent machinery of UNCTAD. It was on the last-named topic that the developed countries' opposition had been most clearly shown; but it was inconceivable to let UNCTAD go to great efforts for results which were practically nil and which would benefit no-one. He therefore asked the developed countries to respond to the appeal made by the previous speakers for the benefit of all the members of UNCTAD.

25. Mrs. PUGLIESI (Italy), speaking on behalf of Group B, said that the members of that Group regretted that, contrary to tradition, it had been necessary for them to vote on certain resolutions. In particular, they regretted having been unable to vote in favour of the resolution on economic co-operation among developing countries. That did not reflect a negative attitude on their part; the reasons for their vote had, moreover, been explained the previous day by other spokesmen for the Group. The situation could not, therefore, be described as a confrontation between the groups. For their part, the Group B countries hoped that the case had been an isolated one, and they were determined to make the utmost efforts in the future in order to find a more convenient means of taking decisions on questions which concerned all the members of the UNCTAD.

26. Mr. LLANES CERVANTES (Cuba) expressed his delegation's deep disappointment at the slight achievements of the Board's current session. In the Cuban delegation's